

Shrewsbury Commission on Disabilities

Minutes February 10, 2004

Meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm by Chairperson Gail Sokolowski in Meeting Room A. Those present were Ms. Sokolowski, Emily Gerber, Loretta Henry and John Harris. The ADA coordinator, Mr. Morgado came in at 7:06

A motion to accept minutes of December 9, 2003 meeting was made by Ms. Henry and seconded by Mr. Harris with a few minor changes.

Appointments: None

Phone Calls: None

Questions/comments/announcements: Ms. Sokolowski mentioned that she attended the Finance Committee meeting to discuss our budget. Ms Sokolowski gave the Finance Committee a brief rundown on our accomplishments of the last year.

ADA Coordinator Mr. Morgado stated that not much had been going on and that he had been quite busy with school building issues and budgets. There were no complaints received this month. An issue was arising with drop off of a child with disabilities at Paton School. Many of the school issues are caused because very few children take buses today. Most of them are driven and therefore the Principals become traffic cops. It was suggested that the person complaining file a formal complaint with Mr. Morgado. The building improvements on the Town Office Building will be starting soon. Many of the improvements need to be done before school lets out for the summer as after that the building department will be busy with schools. There was some discussion on what buildings we would recommend next for improvements. Cheryl Leatham, the mother of the child with disabilities mentioned earlier arrived at the meeting at 7:17 and explained to Mr. Morgado and the Commission her problems and concerns with dropping her son at Paton School. It was suggested that Ms. Leatham file a complaint with Mr. Morgado and he would look into the situation. Mr. Harris talked about the issue of HP parking at a new auto dealership. Mr. Morgado agreed to talk to the business owner. Mr. Morgado left the meeting at 7:22.

We continued our discussion on questions/comments/announcements at this time. We had a brief discussion on a website that Mr. Harris had been given that has many pieces of literature pertaining to people with spinal injuries/disabilities. We will review it and decide if we want to order any items or just add a link to our web site. Ms. Sokolowski mentioned that she had been contacted by New England Index.org about linking them. Most services were not in this area so again we decided to look it over and make a recommendation. Ms. Leatham suggested that we have links to information for parents with children who have disabilities. Ms. Leatham also brought fourth at length an issue that she has had with restraint equipment that was purchased for her child for transportation on the bus that was not properly installed or certified. Mr. Harris explained the process for filing a complaint with the ADA Coordinator. Ms Sokolowski reminded everyone that there is a process and timeline. Ms. Sokolowski asked if Ms. Leatham's concerns at this time were reimbursement for the transportation and getting the installation of the safety seat certified by a qualified person. Ms. Leatham affirmed that it was. Mr. Harris stated his

issues with how the police currently handle patrolling and ticketing violators of HP parking spaces. Ms. Sokolowski suggested drafting a letter to the Chief of Police.

No bills.

New business:

For the previous three license hearings we sent our standard letter. Ms. Sokolowski went over her drafting and changed that she made to this years annual report of the Commission. The main change was listing of the URL to the town web site. All members were in favor of approving Ms. Sokolowski's final draft of the report.

Old Business:

Ms Sokolowski asked if anyone had any further suggestions for the 2004 action list. We discussed the printing and distribution of the ADA Guide for Small Businesses. Some discussion was made on a cover sheet with the Commission's name. White paper is fine. Need to know number of pages and number of copies needed. The document is ten pages and we want 100 copies plus 100 copies of a separate cover letter.

Communications:

We received notification of 26th annual Legislative Reception at the Statehouse from Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Council and ARC Massachusetts.

Next meeting March 9, 2004 in Meeting Room B.

Ms. Leatham suggested that we have information available informing people with problems where they can get help.

Meeting adjourned made by Mr. Harris and seconded by Ms. Henry at 8:19 pm. Voted unanimously.

Respectfully submitted

John Harris
Secretary